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DOE 9508

MEMORANDUM FOR: FI Staff C

28 July 1954

ATTENTION

THROUGH

Chief, St/I/IR

THROUGH

Chief, D/E/IR

FROM

Chief, E/ST/IR

SUBJECT

Request for FBI check on Thomas R. Rudel, New York City

1. CG-39681, date of distribution 6 April 1954, which was disseminated to the FBI, report that Friedrich FLICK, of Duesseldorf in an attempt to reestablish himself in a commanding position in the German armaments industry was said to have combined forces with Thomas R. RUDEL, president of the RUDEL MACHINERY CORPORATION, 100 East 42nd Street, New York City, to form a new German armament corporation. One of the reported participants in this venture was said to be (fnu) LANG, general manager of ESTABROCH, Duesseldorf, a firm apparently well known for its commercial contacts with the Soviet Orbit.

2. It is the function of E/ST to develop intelligence about traffic to the Soviet Bloc in strategic commodities including, of course, arms, ammunition and implements of war. In this connection the reported participation of (fnu) LANG is of interest.

3. E/ST has been following the activities of Hans Ulrich RUDEL, a former Luftwaffe Colonel who is one of the leaders of the neo-Nazi movement and who divides his time between Germany and Argentina, apparently in present official residence. RUDEL has been an adviser of President Peron. He is also associated with two firms suspected of trade activities with the Soviet Bloc in strategic commodities. One of these firms is RUDEL and WERNER, 100 East 42nd Street, New York City, and the other is RUDEL and WERNER, 100 East 42nd Street, New York City. He maintains close connections with Werner LAUFMAN, who prior to his arrest by the British for conspiring to overthrow the West German Government, was an official of the LAUCH company, and Otto WERNER, the notorious rescuer of Mussolini, who is the LAUCH representative in Madrid, and who appears to have been involved in the smuggling of nickel out of Spain for eventual Bloc destination.

4. Although E/ST has received no reports connecting the Hans Ulrich RUDEL group with the FLICK group in the reported armament venture, such connection is, nevertheless a possibility. It would therefore be of great interest to E/ST to determine if there exists either blood relationship between Thomas R. RUDEL and Hans Ulrich RUDEL, or commercial relationship between Thomas R. RUDEL and Hans Ulrich RUDEL or any of the firms or individuals with which the latter has dealings.

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SOURCE: METHOD 5 EXEMPTION 2820
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007